



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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Date: January 12, 2018

Attachment 14

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Andrew Henning, Division Chief

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Water Rescue Curriculum

Recommended Actions: Information/Discussion

Background Information:

The current catalogue of State Fire Training (SFT) water rescue classes is dated and, with the exception of Open Water Rescuer-Basic (OWR-B), is exclusively applicable to the River and Flood environment. Advances in equipment, training, and tactics over the last twenty years have rendered elements of the current courses obsolete and in need of a rewrite. This has become critical as instructors are faced with a perceived need to “teach outside the lines” of dated SFT instructor guides in order to keep their courses relevant. SFT begin a dialog with OES and the CAL FIRE Training Center in 2017 to discuss jointly funding curriculum development for new water rescue curriculum.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

SFT is in the process of finalizing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between State Fire Training, California Office of Emergency Services - Fire & Rescue Branch, and the CALFIRE Training Center to jointly fund water rescue curriculum. Once the MOU is executed, SFT will form cadres through California State University Sacramento - College of Continuing Education. Two cadres will be formed and assigned curriculum to complete. Time permitting, additional courses have been added as a “wish list,” if the cadres have time they will also develop these courses. A River/Flood cadre and a Surface cadre will be formed, and they will be responsible for developing the following courses:

- A. Cadre 1- River/Flood
 - i. River and Flood Technician
 - ii. River and Flood Motorized Rescue Boat Technician
 - iii. River and Flood Awareness- Wish List
 - iv. Water Rescue First Responder Operations- Wish List
- B. Cadre 2- Surface
 - i. Surface Rescue Boat Technician
 - ii. Surface Rescue Boat Specialist
 - iii. Water Rescue First Responder Operations- Wish List

The following courses will be developed:

River and Flood Rescue Technician is a new 40-hour class that is meant to prepare a firefighter to safely operate in dynamic water and to mitigate complex rescue scenarios during a water rescue emergency. The topics covered are; basic and advanced searches, victim rescue from mid river entrapments, night time and low light operations, technical rope systems for victim retrieval, vehicles trapped in moving water and recreational boating accidents. This class is delivered in the classroom and at a suitable river or stream location.

River and Flood Motorized Rescue Boat Technician is a new 40-hour class meant to prepare a firefighter to safely operate a boat in dynamic water that contains class III rapids with a current of greater than 2 knots. Completion of Rescue Boat Operations is a prerequisite to taking this class. The topics covered will be; loading and launching boats, advanced operations of a motorized boat in dynamic water, reading the water, advanced victim rescue, rescuer deployment and recovery. This class is delivered in the classroom and at a suitable river or stream location.

Surface Rescue Boat Technician is a new 32-hour course that prepares firefighters to safely operate an IRB or Flat-Bottomed Rescue Boat in tidal and lake environments. Completion of FSTEP Open Water Rescuer-Basic is recommended prior to taking the course. Topics covered are: launch and recovery, self-rescue, boat handling, victim recovery, basic maritime navigation and basic communications. This class is delivered in the classroom and a suitable surface water training location. In a 32-hour format, this class has been approved by OES for pilot offering in the SF Bay Area.

Surface Rescue Boat Specialist is a new 40 hour class meant to prepare a firefighter to safely operate a rigid hulled rescue boat from 18'-32' in coastal and lake environments. The topics covered are: launch and recover, boat handling, search patterns, use of advanced maritime electronics, rescue swimmer deployment and recovery, victim rescue, night operations, towing, advanced maritime navigation and communications. This class is delivered in the classroom and a suitable surface water training location. This class has been approved by OES for pilot offering in the SF Bay Area.

The following courses are on the wish list:

River and Flood Rescue Awareness is a new 4-hour self-paced course that prepares a firefighter to safely operate from the shore during water rescue emergencies. The goal is to educate the student about; the dangers of working near dynamic water, the personal protective equipment for a shore based rescuer, the techniques used to accomplish a water rescue from the shore without entering the water. This class is delivered remotely via web enabled distance learning.

River and Flood Rescue Operations is an updated 24-hour course that is meant to prepare a firefighter to safely operate in dynamic water during water rescue emergencies. The topics covered are; personal protective equipment for the rescuer, reading the water and understanding the movement of dynamic water, self-rescue skills, communication methods, basic victim rescue skills. This class is delivered in the classroom and at a suitable river or stream location.

Conclusions:

Once the MOU is executed, SFT will work to form cadres. The curriculum will be developed using the 2012 *State Fire Training Curriculum Development Model*. There are other courses that are currently in development by the Water Rescue Working Group that are not listed in this curriculum development plan. SFT, OES, CALFIRE Training Center and the Water Rescue Working Group identified the courses listed in this staff report as the highest need. Once these courses are developed, the other courses will be evaluated for development based on the need and demand.